

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 084637
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KWAUCHOPE:SM X20668
APPROVED BY AF:WHARROP
AF/E:RPOST
S/S-O:SVALERGA
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-----077841 011645Z /66

O 011630Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 084637

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, UG, EG

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH IDI AMIN: BACKGROUND AND TALKING
POINTS
REF: A) CAIRO 8250; B) STATE 084636

1. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AMBASSADOR BUNYENYEZI CONFIRMS
THAT HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS TO ARRANGE YOUR MEET-
ING WITH IDI AMIN, WE ARE PROVIDING YOU THE FOLLOWING.
AS STATED IN REF B, WE HAVE AGREED TO THIS MEETING ON THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS PRIVATE AND AT THE SPECIFIC RE-
QUEST OF PRESIDENT AMIN. OUR STANCE IN THIS MEETING IS
ESSENTIALLY TO LISTEN TO AMIN. IF, HOWEVER, AMIN RAISES
RECENT U.S.ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS UGANDA YOU MAY DRAW ON
THESE TALKING POINTS.

2. WE ARE NOT HOSTILE TOWARD UGANDA AND THERE IS A
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HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND UGANDAN
PEOPLES. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, IS DEEPLY
COMMITTED TO THE PROMOTION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. THE
U.S. CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ARE ALSO STRONGLY
AND INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. THUS THE
REPORTS WHICH HAVE REACHED THE U.S. OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
IN UGANDA HAVE PLACED SERIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON OUR ABILITY

TO DEAL WITH UGANDA IN A NORMAL MANNER.

3. THESE CONCERNS HAVE RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN RECENT MONTHS IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE ABILITY OF THE UGANDAN STATE TO RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS. THESE MEASURES HAVE INCLUDED DENIAL OF CERTAIN EXPORT LICENSES, AND REFUSAL OF VISAS FOR UGANDAN OFFICIALS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING IN THE U.S., E.G. IN THE AVIATION FIELD. FURTHER, THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY BEEN HOLDING HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD FURTHER RESTRICT U.S.-UGANDAN RELATIONS THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF A TRADE EMBARGO, A PROPOSAL THE ADMINISTRATION HAS OPPOSED BUT FOR WHICH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS REMAINS UNCLEAR.

4. IF AMIN APPEARS RECEPTIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS, AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU COULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINT: WE BELIEVE THAT A CHANGE IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE COULD ONLY COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF POSITIVE REPORTS FROM AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY SUCH AS THAT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. WE WOULD HOPE THAT UGANDA COOPERATES FULLY WITH THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS, IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT AMIN'S DECLARATION OF 1978 AS A YEAR OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

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5. SHOULD AMIN RAISE THE QUESTION OF RE-OPENING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KAMPALA YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT WE HAVE NO SUCH PLANS. SUCH ACTION WOULD ONLY BE CONTEMPLATED ONLY AFTER THERE WAS INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE OF A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN UGANDA. COOPER

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PAGE 01 STATE 084637
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:DSUMMERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 084637

EXDIS FM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 084637 ACTION CAIRO APR 1.

QUOTE E C R E T STATE 084637

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COOPER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PDIP, US, UG, EG, (AMIN DADA, IDI)
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